

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An in-line egg labelling system for applying a label on
eggs travelling into grippers of a conveyer, said system comprising at least
5 one labelling device mounted beneath said conveyer and provided with a
label applying arm for applying a label on an exposed area of the surface
of said eggs.

2. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1,
10 wherein said exposed egg surface area is facing generally downwards.

3. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1
wherein said conveyer is part of an egg packing and grading system
comprising a controller and wherein each travelling egg has a destination.
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4. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 3
further comprising a computerised labelling control system and a user
interface for the automatic individual selection of the eggs to be labelled
on the basis of at least one user set parameter and at least one input
20 parameter communicated by said controller.

5. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,
wherein said at least one input parameter indicates a destination for each
travelling egg.
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6. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,
wherein said at least one user set parameter comprises a parameter
specifying for which destinations eggs are to be labelled.

14. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 12, wherein said label smoothing device comprises a roller member.

5 15. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 12, wherein said label smoothing device comprises at least one air jet.

10 16. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1, wherein said conveyer comprises two parallel longitudinal rows of grippers and said labelling system comprises two labelling devices, each one being dedicated to the labelling of eggs transported by a specific row of grippers.

15 17. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1, wherein said conveyer comprises three parallel longitudinal rows of grippers and said labelling system comprises three labelling devices, each one being dedicated to the labelling of eggs transported by a specific row of grippers.